

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 28, 2004

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:05 p.m.

In Attendance

J. DiPrete, F. Caprio, J. Gaines, P. Guida, G. Grove, M. Mancieri and (K. Forbes).

Public Remarks:

Jim Parisi – Representing the Rhode Island Teachers and Health Professionals, Jim Parisi spoke in reference to agenda item #6 – Approval of Changes to Certification Regulations. Mr. Parisi raised concerns about the proposed increase in the fee structure for teachers with multiple certificates. He requested that the Regents consider placing a cap of \$300, regardless of how many certificates are renewed.

Sarah Morenon – a Providence school librarian from the Nathaniel Greene Middle School spoke to the Regents about Providence’s request for a variance on the staffing of Providence School libraries. She urged members of the board to “deny this outrageous request”. She outlined how a librarian’s time would have to be reduced per child to accommodate the proposed staffing changes.

Dawn Dion – a Providence Flynn School Librarian – Asked that a decision on the waiver be forthcoming as soon as possible.

Mickey Bonneau - a Providence Library Media Specialist urged members to bring about a resolution on the Providence variance as soon as possible.

Chairman’s Remarks:

- Chairman DiPrete reported that along with Jo Eva Gaines, Colleen Callahan and Sharon Osborne, he had attended the NASBE Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida on October 17, 18 and 19. He told members that he had attended a wonderful presentation on school leadership and would like to invite the presenter, Mr. Timothy Waters, the President and Chief Executive Officer of McREL. Chairman DiPrete suggested that the Regents might want to invite Mr. Waters to address the Department and Board. The Chairman also talked about a presentation by three student

Board members. He would like the Regents to consider establishing a student advisory committee;

- He also reported that he had represented the Board at Kent Heights Elementary School to recognize improved academic achievement; and
- Had attended the Milken awards celebration at the Coventry Washington Oak Elementary School and the Warwick Hoxie Elementary School;
- Had also attended the RIPEC dinner; and

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- The Regents officers (Vice Chairman, JoEva Gaines and Secretary Colleen Callahan) had met with the Governor on the Budget proposal;
- And had attended the kick off of the Governor's Career and Technical initiative at the state house;
- On behalf of the Regents, Mr. DiPrete congratulated the state board executive, Sharon Osborne, on her election as President elect of her national organization, NCSBEE. Both Mr. DiPrete and Commissioner McWalters voiced their support over the next two years in her elected role.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents approved the Minutes of the September 9, 2004 and September 23, 2004 meetings as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Members to the William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School Board of Trustees and the Central Falls Board of Trustees

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Appointment of Members to the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical Board of Trustees and the Central Falls Board of Trustees, as Recommended by the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Recommendations to State Aid

Chairman DiPrete and Commissioner McWalters reminded board members that the state aid proposal being brought before them tonight for approval came about as a result of two budget workshops held during the past month. Regent M. Mancieri briefly reviewed the proposed State Aid Proposal, as outlined in the attached white paper:

- \$26.5M in additional state aid for FY2006 as follows:
- \$8.0M in education improvement grants;
- \$3.5M in the current professional development fund; and
- \$15M in the current student equity fund.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Endorse the State Aid Proposal, as outlined in enclosure #5 of the Board of Regents' package of October 28, 2004.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

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Approval of Changes to Certification Regulations

RIDE Assistant Commissioner David Abbott briefly reviewed the proposals, as follows:

- The full implementation in Individual Professional Development Plans (I-Plans) as the basis for certification renewal;
- The adoption of the RI Teacher Standards (RITS) as the standards for the profession in Rhode Island;
- A streamlined and simplified structure for certification in Rhode Island that would link certification to employment, establish a single professional certificate for employed educators in Rhode Island, and establish a common expiration date for all certificates held by educators; and
- A certification fee structure that is comparable with our neighboring states.

RIDE staff member, David Roy, reviewed the testimony for the three public hearings focusing on three areas:

- The capacity of RIDE to support educators in writing I-Plans and in approving the large volume of I-Plans at the end of the five (5) year cycle;
- The difficulty, in some teaching areas, for educators to complete the required professional development hours; and
- The amount of paperwork involved in documenting PD activities.

Board members discussed, in detail, the proposed increase in the fee structure. The Chairman of the Regents' Teacher Quality Sub-Committee, Jo Eva Gaines, told the members of the board that the issue had been discussed extensively at the committee meeting held earlier in the day and the members of the committee supported the fee structure, as presented.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Changes to Certification Regulations, as presented; and furthermore Authorize and Direct Staff in the Office of Teacher Certification to Convene Constituent Groups to Conduct a Comprehensive Review of the RI Beginning Teacher Standards for the Purpose of Creating the RI Teacher Standards.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Statewide Curriculum Plan

Commissioner McWalters explained that this plan is the result of the legislation requiring that " the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education should prepare an outline (plan) for the development and implementation of the curriculum by November 1, 2004". Deputy Commissioner Todd Flaherty reviewed the proposal, as enclosed, and told members that August 6, 2006 is the deadline for creating a statewide curriculum. RIDE Director of the Office of Instruction, Diane Schaefer, explained that the department is proposing that the statewide curriculum be based on the grade level expectations and the grade span expectations that are currently being

developed. Ms. Schaefer told members of the board that in an attempt to make the development of the plan as inclusive as possible, a team of RIDE staff members had used models from other states to develop a draft plan which was then circulated to district superintendents and each of the district

GLE/Curriculum teams for review and feedback. Once that process is completed, the department will bring in classroom teachers from every grade to help develop curriculum and look at exemplary lessons and student work from across districts. A complete implementation plan is detailed on page seven of Enclosure #7 of the Rhode Island Board of Regents package dated October 28, 2004. (RI Statewide Curriculum Development and Implementation Plan 2004-2007).

Regent Mancieri expressed his concern that the proposed curriculum is “voluntary” rather than mandatory. He expressed concern that some districts will not adopt a new curriculum if not “made to do it”.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Statewide Curriculum Plan, as presented

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Appeals

Claudia Gizzarelli vs. Providence School Board and Providence School Department.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, in the matter of Claudia Gizzarelli vs. Providence School Board and Providence School Department, the Commissioner’s decision denying Ms. Gizzarelli’s claim for reinstatement to her position as Assistant Principal is affirmed; the holding in the Commissioner’s decision that Ms. Gizzarelli is entitled to a resumption of her tenured teacher status in the Providence school system is reversed; and the statement in the Commissioner’s decision that Ms. Gizzarelli “should be placed in the next available vacancy in guidance for which she holds appropriate certification” is non-binding.

VOTE: approved Unanimously.

Anne Marie Quattrucci vs. East Providence School Committee

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, in the matter of Anne Marie Quattrucci vs. East Providence School Committee, the Commissioner’s decision is affirmed.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Forest Hill Homeowners vs. Exeter/West Greenwich Regional School Committee

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, in the matter of Forest Hill Homeowners vs. Exeter/West Greenwich Regional School Committee, the Commissioner's decision is affirmed.

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Commissioner's Report

Commissioner McWalters reported that the preliminary results of the state tests are in and overall the results are good this year. The results will be reported this week and the categorization of schools will be released in three weeks.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

With Unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 6: 55 p.m.